

PUBLIC HEARING
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Dr. Pedro Sanz-Altamira

Good evening. I am Dr. Pedro Sanz, an oncologist on staff at both Lawrence General Hospital and Holy Family Hospital.

My patients come to me from a wide area that surrounds Lawrence and Methuen.

Cancer cuts across all demographics. The community needs as much access as possible to the array of physicians and services necessary to treat the disease successfully.

The concern is balance between the two institutions. An unbalanced distribution of those services may not work for many Lawrence General patients. Venture capital backed corporations that buy not for profit hospitals could decrease access to health care for the greater community by concentrating services on one campus and restricting access to it.

As an example, my Lawrence patients who require a lymphedema clinic, radiation treatments, or some other services, have access to them at the Holy Family Hospital. I have concerns as to whether that access would continue without specific conditions being placed by the attorney general on the proposed sale. Should the access be

compromised, by way of exclusive insurance panels, they would either have to be referred to more distant facilities or Lawrence would have to invest capital to duplicate the service.

In the past, when Lawrence General Hospital has considered building a radiation facility, I have been opposed, because I don't believe there is need to duplicate certain services. Besides, there would be not enough market for both radiation departments. Lawrence General Hospital could use the money for more private rooms that sometimes infected cancer patients need, and for other similar services, rather than to try to compete with a private, highly capitalized marketing budget.

Two multimillion-dollar cancer centers two miles apart is a way to raise, not lower, health care costs, and the insurance premiums of most people in this room.

As a physician extremely committed to the health and welfare of this community, I am strongly suggesting to the Attorney General's Office that it consider the missions that have guided both Holy Family and Lawrence General Hospitals, and assure those missions are safeguarded.

Thank you.

Pedro M Sanz-Altamira, MD, PhD